



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 JANUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Man Pleads Guilty After Drone Hits LAPD Helicopter, First Conviction of its Kind

(U) A Los Angeles man pleaded guilty Thursday to a misdemeanor count after his drone crashed into a police helicopter, prompting an emergency landing, federal prosecutors said. It is believed to be the first criminal conviction for unsafe operation of an unmanned aircraft in the nation, the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California said in a statement. Andrew Rene Hernandez, 22, of Hollywood, pleaded guilty to the single count in a plea agreement, according to court records. He flew the drone just after midnight on 18 September 2020 because he was curious after hearing a police helicopter and sirens, according to court documents.

SOURCE: 15 January 2021, [NBC News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Connecticut – Uzbek National Sentenced to More Than 12 Years for Helping Aspiring ISIS Fighter

(U) New Haven – An Uzbek national was sentenced Thursday in Brooklyn federal court to 12 1/2 years in prison for supporting an aspiring Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) fighter. Azizjon Rakhmatov, 33, of New Haven, Connecticut, previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization, according to the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. In 2015, Rakhmatov gave aspiring terrorist Akhror Saidakhmetov \$400 to help facilitate a trip to Syria to join ISIS, and to buy a weapon once he arrived. Saidakhmetov, who had pledged his allegiance to ISIS, had said if he could not make it to Syria to wage jihad, he would stage an attack within the US.

SOURCE: 15 January 2021, [New York Post](#)

(U) District of Columbia – National Guardsman First Known Service Member Charged for Capitol Riot

(U) Washington – Jacob Fracker, an off duty police officer charged in connection with the violent riots at the US Capitol, is a member of the Virginia National Guard, an official said on Thursday, becoming the first known person currently in the military to be arrested over last week's events. On Wednesday, the Department of Justice said Fracker, along with another off-duty police officer, Thomas Robertson, were charged after they were photographed inside the Capitol "making an obscene statement in front of a statue of (Revolutionary hero) John Stark."

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Dozens on FBI Terrorist Watch List Came to DC on 6 January

(U) Washington – Dozens of people on a terrorist watch list were in Washington for pro-Trump events on 6 January, a day that ended when a violent mob stormed the US Capitol, according to sources. Most of the watch-listed individuals in Washington are suspected white supremacists whose past conduct so alarmed investigators that their names had been previously entered into the national Terrorist Screening Database, or TSDB, a massive set of names flagged as potential security risks. The watch list is larger and separate from the "no-fly" list the government maintains to prevent terrorism suspects from boarding airplanes.

SOURCE: 15 January 2021, [Washington Post](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) District of Columbia – Large Bitcoin Payment Made to Far-Right Individuals Before Riot

(U) Washington – Payments in bitcoin worth more than \$500,000 were made to 22 different virtual wallets, most of them belonging to far-right activists and internet personalities, before the storming of the US Capitol, according to monitoring company, Chainalysis. The payments, made by a French donor, of 28.15 bitcoins were made on 8 December 2020, investigators are now seeking to determine whether the Capitol riot was a part of a planned, coordinated event with international influence.

SOURCE: 15 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – MS-13's Highest Ranking Leaders Charged with Terrorism Offenses in US

(U) Central Islip – Federal authorities have charged multiple leaders of the MS-13 criminal gang with terrorism offenses, the Justice Department announced Thursday. In the indictment, filed in Central Islip, NY, where MS-13 members have committed a series of brutal slayings, 14 members of the transnational gang were charged. The leaders, known as la Ranfla Nacional, are charged with providing material support to terrorists, conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism, conspiracy to finance terrorism to conspiracy narco-terrorism. Authorities said Borrromeo Enrique Henriquez, who is regarded as the most powerful member of Ranfla Nacional, and 10 other defendants were imprisoned in El Salvador.

SOURCE: 15 January 2021, [Fox News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – 46 Civilians Feared Killed in Eastern Congo Attack

(U) Imuru – 46 civilians are reported to have been killed in an attack by suspected Islamist militants on a village in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a senior provincial official said on Thursday. Local security forces have been dispatched to the village in Irumu territory to investigate, provincial interior minister Adjio Gidi said by phone. "The death toll as of this afternoon is reported to be 46," Gidi said. He said the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) were behind the raid. The Ugandan armed group is believed to have carried out a string of massacres in eastern Congo, killing more than 1,000 civilians since the start of 2019, according to UN figures.

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Pakistan – Raids in Pakistan's Northwest Leave Three Soldiers, Two Militants Dead

(U) Waziristan – Security forces raided two militant hideouts in a former insurgent stronghold in Pakistan's northwest Thursday, triggering shootouts that left three soldiers and two insurgents dead, the military said. The separate raids took place in the North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and one of the slain militants was a bomb-making expert, the military said in a statement. It provided no further details and the identity and nationality of the slain militants were not known. North Waziristan served as a headquarters of the Pakistani Taliban until the military secured it in 2015 with a series of operations.

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [AP](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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